

THE FIG AS A HARDY PLANT IN NEW ENGLAND. — For some years the edible fig, *Ficus carica*, L., has maintained itself in Providence, Rhode Island, in a suffrutescent state. With its roots deeply buried in the cellar walls of a ruined house, it every year comes up, very late, but thrives vigorously. Finally, it is caught by the autumnal frosts, and all parts above ground perish. I have repeatedly thought I had seen the last of the plant, when suddenly it would again throw up its shoots.

In August of this year, I found *Ficus carica*, L., growing under very similar conditions in a waste lot in Gloucester, Mass. I do not know if it maintains itself through the winter.

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SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE EARLY GROWTH OF IMPATIENS BIFLORA.

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It may not be generally known that the common jewel-weed, *Impatiens biflora* Walt. (*I. fulva* Nutt.), at one stage of its growth is an opposite-leaved plant. At any rate there is no mention of this feature in such descriptions of the genus as are accessible to me. That such is the fact, however, is easily seen by examining a patch of young plants in the spring. Following the cotyledons come either three or four pairs of strictly opposite leaves at well-marked nodes. These nodes persist throughout the season, becoming, in fact, much more prominent later, and frequently have opposite branches arising from them. In this young stage the alternate arrangement is to be found only beginning among the very small leaves crowded at the summit. At this time the most conspicuous feature is the distant pairs of long-petioled opposite leaves, and this, with the slender unbranched stem and small size (6 to 15 inches tall in cool woods on May 30 of this year), gives the plants an appearance strikingly unlike that of the late summer specimens.

Another point of interest is the early appearance of cleistogamous flowers. Already, by May 30, in the woods visited on that date, they were uniformly present and young capsules were easily found. By the middle of June — probably earlier — pods were ripe and discharging seeds. They continue to be abundantly produced for at